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NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

UPON THE

**Health and Sanitary Conditions**

OF THE

**Norham and Islandshires  
Rural District**

FOR THE

**Year ended 31st December, 1947**

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*"Advertiser" Printing Works, Berwick*



NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR THE

**Year ended 31st December, 1947**

# Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—47,011 acres.

Population (estimated)—4,480.

Number of Inhabited Houses—1,465.

Rateable Value—£18,739.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£80.

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Farming is the primary industry in the district, whilst salmon fishing employs a large section along Tweedside, and coal mining in the Scremerston area.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		Total. Male. Female.				
Live Births	Legitimate	71	36	35	}	Birth rate per 1000 Population—16.74
	Illegitimate	4	3	1		
Still Births		1	1	0	{	Rate per 1,000 Births—13.1
Deaths	... ..	56	27	29	{	Rate per 1,000 Population—12.5
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—0.						
,,		other puerperal causes—0.				

### Death rate of Infants under one year—

All infants (per 1,000 live births)—26.6.

Legitimate infants (per 1,000 legitimate live births)—14.0.

Illegitimate infants (per 1,000 illegitimate live births)—250.

Deaths from Cancer, all ages—5.

,, Measles—0.

,, Whooping Cough—0.

,, Diarrhœa—0.



## General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Medical Officer (part-time) .....	Herbert F. Park, M.B., Ch.B., Norham.
Sanitary Inspector .....	A. N. Senior, M.R.S.I., East Ord
Vaccination Officer .....	H. F. Park, M.B., Ch. B.
Laboratory Facilities .....	County Laboratory, Newcastle

**Ambulance Facilities.**—For infectious diseases an Ambulance is available by arrangement with Berwick Town Council. For general cases the Ambulance provided by St. John's Brigade at Berwick—a voluntary service to which the R.D.C. is a subscriber—renders very efficient service.

**Nursing.**—The district is served by the County Nursing Association.

**Hospitals.**—The position here remains as before, viz., infectious cases are isolated at Marshall Meadows Hospital, Berwick.

The smallpox hospital at Oxford has not been used during the year, but is ready at short notice.

There are no general or cottage hospitals in the district. Castle Hills Maternity Hospital is available to the district.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

**Water.**—The position in the district has not made any great progress during the year, and some areas are still very deficient.

The gravitation supplies to Norham and Horncliffe are quite satisfactory, and the Council is acquiring the supply at Longridge, which will greatly help the Ord-Horncliffe district. There is no improvement in the position at Cornhill, where lack of water prevents building schemes being carried out. At Holy Island improvements have been made at the Popplewell, but, so far, no more water is available. The matter is under consideration, and it would appear that boring on the Island is not a good proposition. The question of conducting it from the mainland is being considered. The area on the coast, however, is not well watered.

**Drainage and Sewage.**—Beyond extending the present systems to serve the new building sites, there have been no major changes.

**Scavenging.**—The scheme for collection of household refuse which was started last year is proving very satisfactory.

**Rivers and Streams.**—There is no gross pollution of streams in the area.

## PARTICULARS OF PARISHES WITH PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Total number of Houses	Houses with piped supply to house	Supply within 100 yards
Ancroft ...	356	286	21
Cornhill ...	141	77	—
Duddo ...	36	21	14
Felkington ...	17	9	—
Grindon ...	18	18	—
Holy Island ...	104	16	—
Horncliffe ...	85	60	4
Kyloe ...	173	149	—
Loanend ...	23	14	—
Longridge ...	18	10	—
Norham ...	207	169	11
Norham Mains ...	19	5	—
Ord ...	126	105	15
Shoreswood ...	48	41	—
Thornton ...	27	24	—
Twizell ...	45	40	—

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—
Other diseases generally notifiable (Measles) ...	38	—	—
Other diseases notifiable locally (Whooping Cough) ...	24	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-	...	...	1	—	...	...	...	...
25-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35-	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
45-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55-	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	1	...	1	...	2	...	1	...

**Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.**—Measles and Whooping Cough comprise the bulk of notifications and there were no cases for isolation during the year.

**Diphtheria (immunisation against).**—The percentage of children under 15 years who have been immunised stands about 98%. This figure has been maintained during the year.

**Scabies.**—There have been none reported during the year.

**Venereal Diseases.**—There have been no new cases, known during the year.

**Tuberculosis.**—The incidence in the district remains unchanged and is very slight.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

M.O.H.

July, 1948.

*Herbert. F. Park.*



# Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1947.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, I herewith submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

## NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

The number of inspections made during the first four months of 1947 are extracted from the office records and, together with the number of inspections made during the last eight months of 1947, are as follows:—

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Part Two—Sanitation and Buildings	...	...	...	149
Part Three—Nuisances and Offensive Trades	...	...	...	20
Part Four—Water Supplies	...	...	...	81
Part Five—Notifiable Diseases	...	...	...	3
Total Visits, etc.	...	...	—	253

### HOUSING ACT, 1936

Part Two—Inspection of Insanitary Houses	...	...	15	15
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### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Part One—Unsound Foods	...	...	...	4
Part Three—Other Foods	...	...	...	—
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	22
Total Visits, etc.	...	...	...	26

### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

Visits in connection with infestations	...	...	...	11	11
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### THE PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

Visits in connection with the storage of petrol	...	...	...	11	11
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### OTHER VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

(a) In connection with repairs to Council Houses	...	...	...	97
(b) With Tradesmen in connection with repairs to Council property	...	...	...	24
(c) In connection with the Control of Civil Building	...	...	...	115
(d) In connection with Salvage	...	...	...	30
(e) Miscellaneous Visits, Interviews, etc.	...	...	...	75
				<hr/> 341
				341

TOTAL VISITS, INTERVIEWS, INSPECTIONS, etc.				<hr/> 657
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### NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	18
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

### RESULT OF SERVICE OF SUCH NOTICES

Drains Repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Removal of accumulated Refuse	...	...	...	...	8
House Repairs	...	...	...	...	5

### SUMMARY OF OTHER WORK DONE WITHOUT NOTICE

Drains Tested	...	...	...	...	6
W.C.s Repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Fumigation (a) Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	3
(b) Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	5



**FOOD CONDEMNED**

Substance	Reason for Condemnation	
Milk (Unsweetened)—6 x 1 lb. tins	...	Tins "blown"
Peas—1 x 20 ozs. tin	...	do.
Stew Meat—2 x 1 lb. tins	...	do.
Ham—3 x 12 oz. tins	...	do.
Pilchards—1 x 15 oz. tin	...	do.
Salmon, Grade 1—1 half flat tin	...	do.
Vegetable Soup—1 x 16 oz. tin	...	do.
Fish Paste—1 x 3 oz. jar	...	Decomposition
Cheese—7 lbs.	...	Mouldy
Prunes—30 lbs.	...	Putrescence

**SAMPLES FOR ANALYSIS**

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Water—Chemical	8	7	1
Bacteriological	19	10	9

**COMMENTARY**

**Sanitation.**—The scavenging scheme for the whole district has been in operation for just over twelve months. Considering the size of the area serviced with only one vehicle and two men, it is deemed to be eminently satisfactory.

The tips at Norham and East Ord have been closed and cleared. Those in use at Scremerston and the Salutation Inn are controlled and satisfactory. The Crammond Hill quarry is gradually taking shape as a "controlled tip," but until the "made up" road into the quarry is completed, text book control cannot be guaranteed.

Holy Island presents an almost insoluble problem in so far as tipping is concerned. The present arrangement cannot be regarded as satisfactory, but stricter measures of control have been attempted throughout the year, with some small success. The provision of a piped water supply on the Island would be a great boon towards easing the problem of refuse disposal there.

**Water Supplies.**—The area of the District Council is, on the whole, badly watered. With the exception of the Norham, Horncliffe, Shoreswood and Thornton areas and, to a lesser degree, the villages of East Ord and Fenwick, the supplies are both inadequate and insufficient. However, expectations for 1948 have been raised by the District Council's decision to engage the County Council Consulting Engineers to draw up a scheme to provide an adequate piped water supply to the Scremerston, Holy Island and Cornhill areas.

It is gratifying to note that during the severe drought of the 1947 summer, the undertakings at Fenwick, Holy Island, Thornton and East Ord (publicly owned) maintained output without trouble.

**Housing.**—The need for assistance to property owners towards the repair and reconditioning of dwelling houses is very real in this area. It is estimated that 60 per cent. of the houses in the area require large-scale improvement and repair. The prevailing scarcity of building labour and materials, coupled with the information that 1948 is not likely to see the introduction of an Act such as the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, makes this an immense problem to attempt to solve.

**Conclusion.**—In the face of many difficulties, the year has been one of slow but, nevertheless, tangible progress. The two immediately urgent problems of the area are (a) water supplies and (b) the provision of new houses, and both are being pursued with determination. It is hoped that such endeavour will produce material results in 1948.

**Housing Survey.**—Though temporarily suspended owing to pressure of other work, it is expected that it will be completed in 1948.

**Plans for Erection and Alteration to Properties have been submitted to the Council:—**

New Cottage at the Boat House, Norham.

Bungalow, North Back Lane, Norham.

Canteen Kitchen, Duddo C. of E. School.

Canteen Kitchen, Ancroft C. of E. School.

Conversion of Royalty Hall Farm Steading—Modern Cow Byre, Dairy, Sterilization Room, New Boiler House, and Engine House.

Temporary Caravan, Greenlawalls, Duddo.

Petrol Tank and Pump, Scremerston Hill Farm.

Petrol Tank and Pump, Shoreswood Farm.

New Cow Byre, Norham-on-Tweed.

Sectional Garage, North Back Lane, Norham-on-Tweed.

Canteen Kitchen, Thornton C.E. School.

Canteen Kitchen, Shoreswood C.E. School.

Petrol Tank and Pump, Estate Yard, Scremerston.

Alterations to Low Lynn Mill Cow Byre.

Two Garages, South Back Lane, Norham.

**Building Licences.**—Throughout the year, 113 applications for building licences were received. Of these, 110 were granted and three refused.

**Schools.**—The Hampshire Privy System is prevalent in nearly all the schools in the area. Water is laid on where gravitation supplies are available.

**Disinfection.**—All premises where infectious diseases have occurred have been disinfected, and all schools in the infected areas.

**Dairies and Cowsheds—Milk Supply.**—During the year dairies and cowsheds have been inspected. On the whole the standard of cleanliness is high, but many of the buildings are structurally poor.

**Factories and Workshops.**—These number 33, and have all been well kept.

**Slaughterhouses.**—The two in the District are not now used as such as Meat Supplies are controlled by the Ministry of Food from outside the District.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

Sanitary Inspector.

34, Eastern Lane, Berwick-on-Tweed,  
July, 1948.

*W. J. Senior*





